Maine Counties GIS Forum

How Can Geographic Information System Technology be Better Utilized by Maine County Government?

Black Bear Inn - Orono July 28, 2005

Introductions

Dan Walters, Maine Office of GIS
Richard Sutton, Applied Geographics, Inc.
Bob Faunce, Maine GeoLibrary

Counties Represented

Aroostook Piscataquis

Hancock Somerset

Knox Waldo*

Penobscot Washington*

Part 1: What is a GIS?

- Definition
- Technology overview
- Data sets
- Applications
 - How is GIS used in Municipal/County Government?

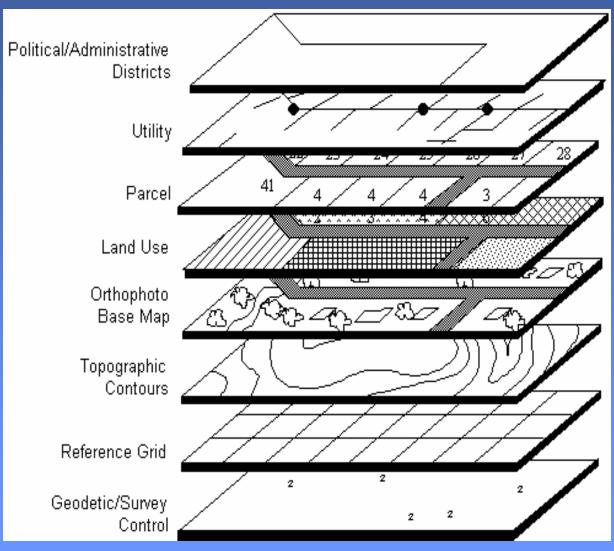
Definition of GIS

- Geographic Information System
- An automated system composed of hardware, software, data and people used to create, store, display and analyze spatial data and related attributes
- GIS is not new
 - Automated systems are replacing manual systems
- A GIS answers questions, such as:
 - "where is it?"
 - "what is it?"

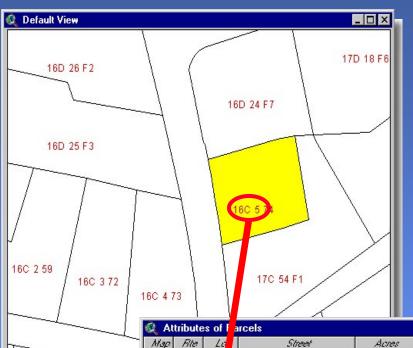
Distinguishing Characteristics of GIS

- Map information is stored as layers
- Map features are connected to descriptive database information (attributes)
 - Interrogate the map
 - Click on something to ask what is this feature?
 - Perform a data base query, see a graphic result
 - Where are the things that meet these criteria?
- Related Technologies, include:
 - CAD
 - Remote sensing/satellite imagery
 - GPS

Data Stored as Layers



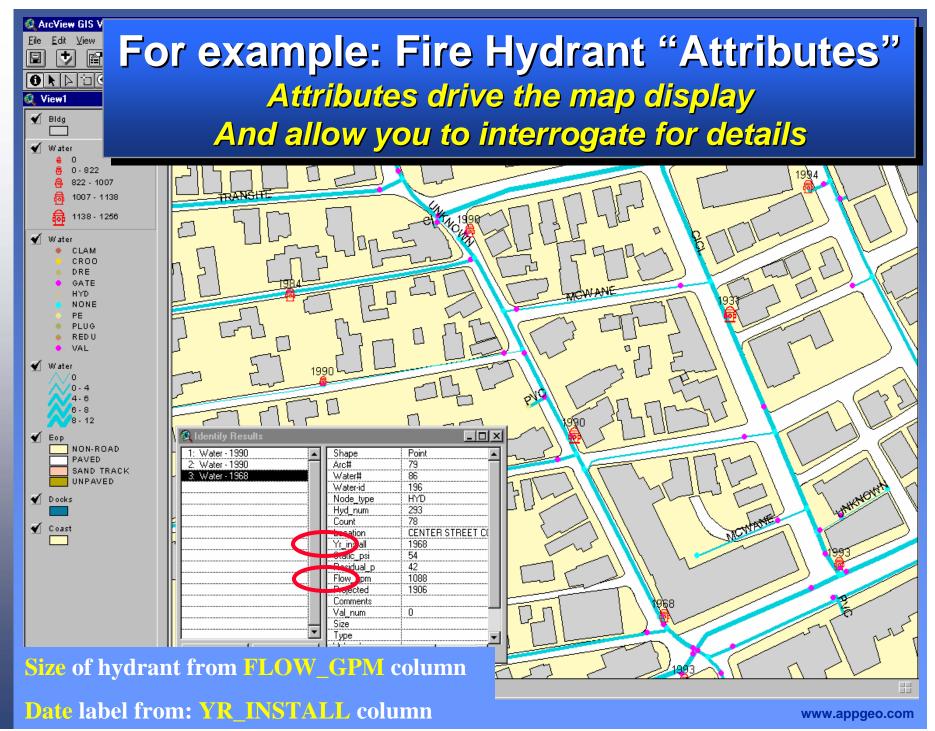
Map Features have Database Attributes



Each parcel polygon is assigned a unique identifier (map-lot). This unique ID corresponds to a row in the Assessor's CAMA system. This allows each parcel to be linked to a data record in the Assessor's data.

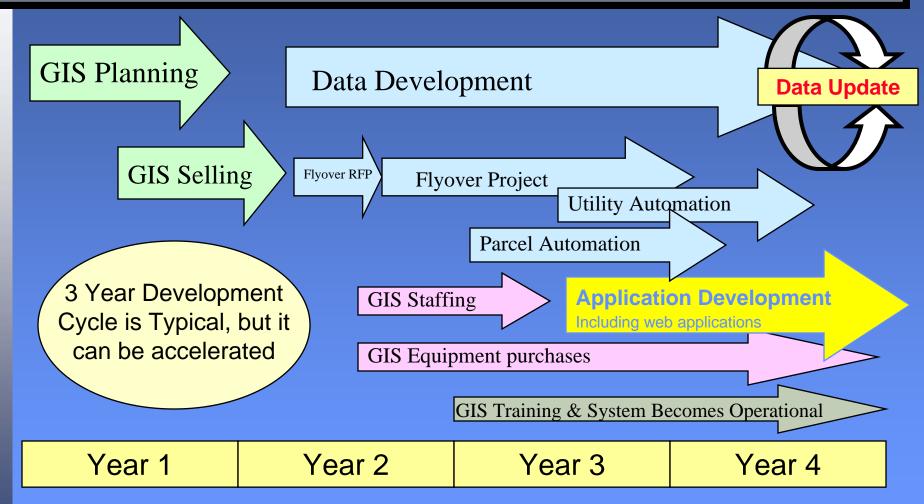
Same approach for all layers: roads, utility systems, zoning, etc.

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GIS Development Lifecycle

Temporal view



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Base Map Data are Derived from Aerial Photography

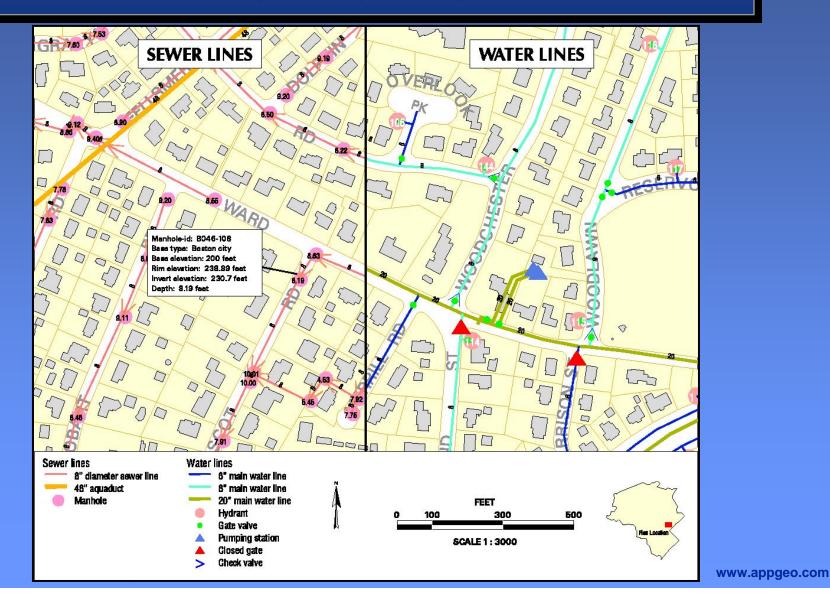


Digital Base Map Layers

Interpreted from flyover



GIS Representation of Infrastructure Data

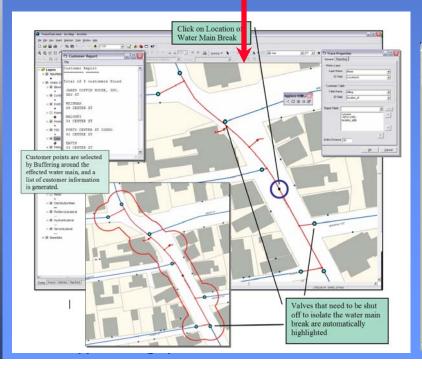


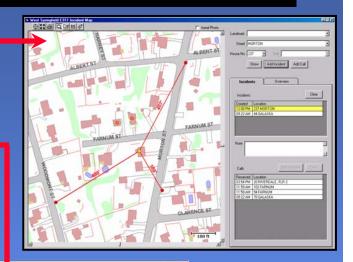
Examples of GIS-based Analysis & Spatial Queries

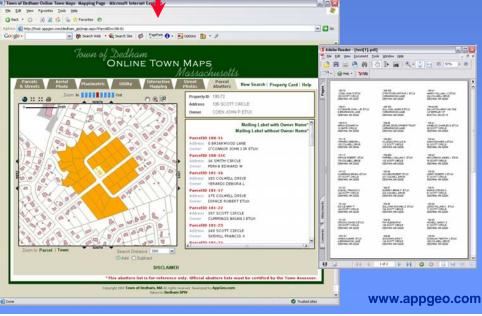
Proximity analysis
Buffer analysis

Abutter's queries

Upstream/downstream tracing





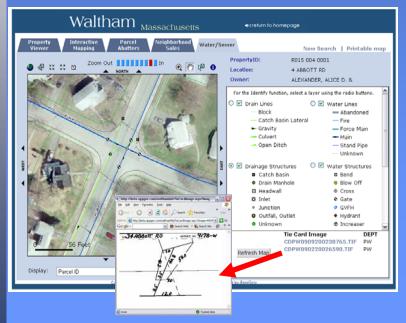


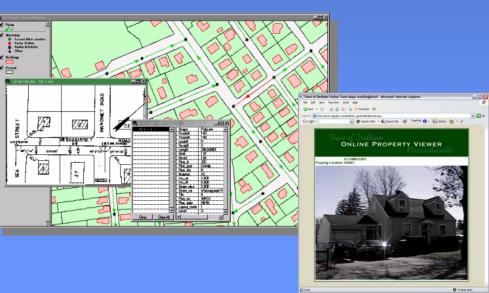
GIS Enabled Document Management

Providing access to images

- GIS can be used to retrieve scanned imagery
 - Photos
 - Scanned plans/record cards
 - Documents (e.g. deeds)







Representative Applications

Common Community/County Apps

Assessor

- Assessor's map maintenance
- Support of revaluation (thematic mapping)
- Abutters notifications
- Providing public access to data/maps via web

DPW/Engineering/Water & Sewer

- Water, sewer, drain system mapping
- Water, sewer, drain network tracing
- Infrastructure improvement planning
- Support of special studies (e.g. Master Plans)
- Support of construction activity
- Logistics: e.g. snow plot routing
- Document archive

Building Dept.

- Permit location mapping
- Confirm permit applications with spatial criteria (e.g. zoning, historic district, wetlands)

Planning

- Support at public meetings
- Zoning (mapping, appeals, bylaws)
- Grant applications (ISTEA, CDBG)
- Special projects (e.g. facility siting, economic development)
- Development/sub-division approvals

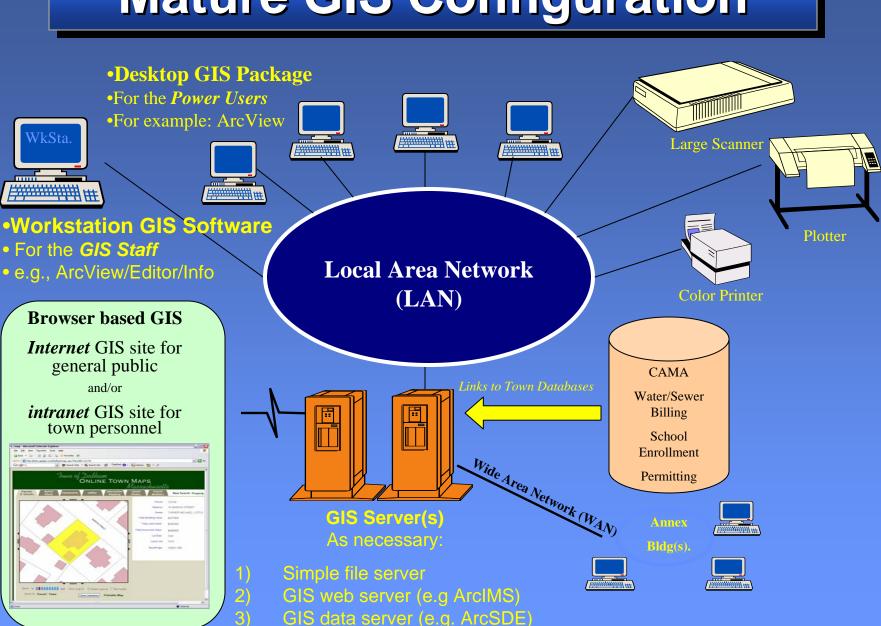
Public Safety

- Support of dispatching
- Development of "street books"
- Sensitive receptors/hazards mapping
- Crime analysis

Schools

- Redistricting
- School bussing eligibility
- School bus routing
- Health, Conservation Comm., etc.

Mature GIS Configuration



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Web-based GIS Technology

Primary Driver for Spatial Data Delivery

Browser based applications make the most sense for end users

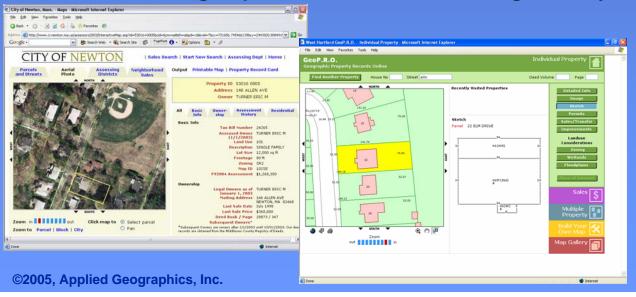
Additional benefit of making information available to the public

Web-based GIS is replacing desktop GIS for most end users

90% of the people use only 10% of the functionality

Web can easily deliver the most important 10%

- People know how to "browse the web"
 - Lowers barrier for leaning new software
 - Universal high-speed web access becoming a reality





Web mapping: One-stop shopping for all information on a parcel Minimum number of clicks to info you need

